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REMARKS

In this response, claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 have been amended. Claims 1-16 remain present in this application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Tran for the courtesies extended to Applicants' undersigned attorney, Kevin Grzelak, during a telephonic interview conducted on April 19, 2005. During the interview, claims 1 and 9 and the cited references to Berstis (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,010) and Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,374,177) were discussed with regard to the claim rejection. Applicants' attorney discussed clarifying the identifier in claim 1 and the step of identifying environmental context information in claim 9. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 per the Examiner's suggestion to clarify that the identifier analyzes the received information and defines the type of information related to the environment as environmental context information. This amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Berstis in view of Lee et al. Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, would not have been rendered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the cited combination of Berstis and Lee et al. for the reasons discussed during the interview and repeated below.

The Berstis patent discloses a navigation system for use onboard a vehicle for processing and displaying map information. The Examiner has cited columns 3-5 of Berstis for disclosing an input, a user interface, and an agent for downloading environmental context information to one or more vehicle devices. In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged that Berstis does not disclose identifying context information. The Examiner then turned to Lee et al. for disclosing an identifier and data storage device for identifying and storing environmental context information.

The Lee et al. patent discloses an Internet radio for providing, among other functions, navigational services. The Examiner cited Lee et.al. for disclosing an identifier for identifying

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context information related to the environment as environmental context information, and a data storage device having memory for storing the identified environmental context information. The portions of specification of Lee et al. cited by the Examiner disclose a web page containing audio channels made available in an area organized by format. The formats and stations are selected. The user selects channels such as stock reports (400), weather reports (402), traffic reports, etc. that the user wishes to use. These applications are then downloaded to a multimedia device (20).

In contrast, Applicants' claimed invention, as recited in claim 1, as amended, is directed to a system for providing environmental context information for use with onboard vehicle devices. The system includes an input for accessing and receiving context information, and an identifier for analyzing the received information and defining the type of information related to the environment as environmental context information. The system also includes a data storage device having memory for storing the environmental context information, and an interface for communicating the data storage device with a plurality of onboard vehicle devices. The system further includes an agent for downloading environmental context information to one or more of the vehicle devices. It should be appreciated that the system, employing the identifier, is able to analyze the received information and define the context information that is related to the environment, which information is then made available to other devices onboard the vehicle. The method of claim 9 similarly recites the step of analyzing the monitored information and defining the type of information related to the environment as environmental context information.

Nowhere does the Berstis patent teach or suggest a system or method of providing environmental context information employing an identifier as claimed, as acknowledged by the Examiner. While the Lee et al. patent discusses the availability of weather reports (402) and traffic reports, that a user may select, nowhere does Lee et al. teach or suggest an identifier for analyzing the received information and defining the type of information related to the environment as environmental context information, as recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 9, as amended. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 to clarify that the identifier analyzes the

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received information and defines the type of information related to the environment. Nowhere do the Berstis or Lee et al. patents, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest such an identifier in combination with a system or method as recited in Applicants' claims.

Accordingly, the Berstis and Lee et al. patents, in combination, fail to teach or suggest a system or method for providing environmental context information for use onboard vehicle devices, which employs an identifier as recited in the claims, as amended. Accordingly, claims 1-16 would not have been rendered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention, and the rejection of claims 1-16 should therefore be withdrawn, which action is respectfully solicited.

By way of the foregoing discussion, Applicants have demonstrated that the claims, as amended, would not have been rendered obvious in view of the cited combination of Berstis and Lee et al., and the rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should therefore be withdrawn.

The remaining prior art made of record in the present application was not applied to the claims. Applicants have reviewed these references and agree with the Examiner that such references do not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention.

In view of the above remarks, it is submitted that claims 1-16, as amended, define patentability subject matter and are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the patentability of any of the claims, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at her convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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